

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 22nd February 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	16th February 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	15th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	"	18th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	14th ditto.	
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	"		
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	"	15th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	12th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	14th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	15th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	10th ditto.	
11	"Sanijya Darpan" ...	Ditto	"	14th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto	" 200	13th and 16th to 19th February 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	15th, 17th and 20th February 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	13th to 15th and 17th to 19th February 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800	13th February 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	11th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	"		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	"	11th, 14th, 15th, and 16th February 1896.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	"	12th February 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400		
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	" 300	8th and 15th February 1896.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500	16th February 1896.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298	12th ditto.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	11th February 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	16th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	"	16th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	14th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
BENGALI.						
Monthly.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.				
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350			
Weekly.						
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	12th February 1896.		
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200			
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	608	31st January and 14th February 1896.		
URIYA.						
Monthly.		ORISSA DIVISION.				
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....			
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....			
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....			
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.	
Weekly.						
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190			
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309			
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412			
HINDI.						
Monthly.		PATNA DIVISION.				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500			
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	15th February 1896.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500			
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	10th February 1896.		
BENGALI.						
Weekly.		RAJSHAHI DIVISION.				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....			
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	12th February 1896.		
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pices per copy.	
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.		DACCA DIVISION.				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280			
Weekly.						
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	11th February 1896.		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	250	15th ditto.		
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	13th ditto.		

No.	Names Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	17th February 1896.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	Magh fortnight, 1302 B S	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ..	.....		

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Gaya Punch* of the 10th February has learnt from the *Reya Zul Akhbar* newspaper that Armenians are now devastating many villages in Turkey and setting them on fire. No one says a word now, but when the Sultan will begin to punish the Armenians, everybody will be angry with him.

GAYA PUNCH,
Feb. 10th, 1896.

2. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 15th February has the following:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

The Kafiristan question. In virtue of the treaty which was concluded some time ago between the British Government and the Amir of Afghanistan, the Amir ceded to the British Government Bajaur and Swat, and the Government of India made over Kafiristan to the Amir. But the most amusing thing about this interchange of territories was that neither the Amir nor the Government of India was in possession of the territories which they ceded to each other. In virtue of this treaty, the Amir proceeded to take possession of Kafiristan. There was fighting in which many Kafirs were killed. Dr. Leitner secured the support of some public bodies and men of influence, and stood forward as the champion of the Kafirs. A petition was submitted to the Secretary of State, and the *Globe* newspaper took up the cause of the people of Kafiristan. Threat and persuasion were alternately held out to the Amir. Dr. Leitner poses as the Amir's friend and holds a regular correspondence with His Highness. Not improbably he wrote to the Amir:—"If you wish to keep an ambassador at the British Court, first show that you are an enemy of the slave trade. If you do not listen to good counsel, you will suffer, for England and Russia will divide your territory between themselves." It is not known whether Government directly interfered with the Amir's affairs in connection with the occupation of Kafiristan. The sudden cessation of the Kafiristan war, however, looks mysterious. It is not unlikely that the Amir has had to yield to the pressure brought to bear upon him by the Leitner party. But does England herself never fight with anybody and kill men in fighting? Dr. Leitner believes the Kafirs to be descended from the ancient Greeks. Hence his sympathy with them. Can, then, no people, who have no connection with Europe, claim Europe's sympathy?

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February says that it holds a private letter from a high Government officer to the following effect:—"I have arranged that the military shall get grass from railway embankments. They will not again go into the villages. If they should do so, I will at once stop them." But, in spite of this assurance, the military grass-cutters have again begun to oppress the villagers. What is Government doing to relieve the villagers of their uneasiness?

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

4. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 14th February complains that a brisk traffic in immorality is going on in Calcutta and its neighbourhood. Young girls, married and unmarried, are being bought and sold by the prostitutes. Recently a young married girl, enmeshed by a prostitute, was going to be sold, when she was rescued by a kind-hearted gentleman. Cannot an expert police officer take up this case and bring the offenders to justice? Last year the police was up and doing, and tried its best to put down the immoral traffic. But where is it this year? Is it sleeping? What are distinguished detectives like Rai Jagendra Nath Mitter, Bahadur, and Babu Priyanath Mukharji doing? Will they tolerate the existence of this vicious traffic in human flesh in the heart of the metropolies?

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

5. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 15th February asks the detective police of Calcutta to enquire into the case of a young girl of about seventeen or eighteen, who has been decoyed from Darbhanga by an old woman, and is now staying in town in a helpless condition.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

6. The *Bangavasi* of the 15th February observes that there is just now a dacoity scare in Calcutta. A gang of dacoits broke into a house in College Street and thrashed its inmates. The police was found to be nowhere, and the constables on duty in their beats refused to stir. The whole gang, with the exception of one, easily made good their escape. It is to be hoped that the physical exercise and athletic sports of the school-boys have nothing to do with these acts of violence and rowdyism in the metropolis. But if it be so, Sir John Lambert is not likely to move.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

7. The *Banganivasi* of the 16th February says that a sense of insecurity prevails in Calcutta on account of the rumour that dacoities are being committed in the metropolis in a most open and daring manner. A few days ago a number of Musalmans, armed with daggers, entered a house in Colootolla almost immediately after dusk, and only one of them was arrested by the police. People also fear to go out alone at night dressed in valuable *shawls* or wearing watch and chain. Sir John Lambert owes it to himself to reassure the residents of Calcutta.

HITAISHI,
Feb. 18th, 1896.

8. Referring to the case of outrage committed upon a female in the Barhatta police-station of the Netrakona subdivision in the Mymensingh district, in which one of the offenders has been sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment, the *Hitaishi* of the 18th February says that every week report of at least one such outrage invariably comes from the Dacca or the Mymensingh district. If these reports are to be believed, perfect anarchy must be reigning in the country. Will not the authorities awake from their sleep so long as the prevailing lawlessness does not affect their own interest?

(b)—Working of the Courts.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Feb. 12th, 1896.

9. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 12th February gives expression to the sorrow of the people of Berhampore at the transfer of their popular Munsif, Babu Gopal Chandra Banerjee, who, by his truthful, upright and independent bearing, won golden opinions of every section of the Berhampore community. Babu Gopal Chandra's transfer comes in the ordinary course of business, as he has nearly completed three years in this station, and there is no foundation for the curious surmise which has been made by the *Dainik* newspaper and some people in this town, as to the existence of a connection between it and the recent murder case.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February learns from its Govindapur correspondent that the local Subdivisional Officer, Mr. Ainslie, at first fixed 9-30 A.M. as the hour for the attendance of his *amla*, but not content with this, soon changed 9-30 A.M. to 7-30 A.M., so that these poor people have to forego their morning meal and have to work hard till evening on an empty stomach. Mr. Ainslie's own hour of attendance is most irregular. He sometimes comes at 9 or 10 A.M. and sometimes so late as 2 or 3 P.M. People may think that Mr. Ainslie does a great amount of work every day. Far from this. Evening generally comes on before he has done signing papers, and he can try only one case in a day if it is a petty one and only half a case if it is an important one. This officer has also civil jurisdiction. But during the last three months he has been able to pass *ex-parie* judgments only in three civil cases, and to take the depositions of witnesses in two more, and this although no pleader appeared in any of those cases.

Such is Mr. Ainslie's treatment of his subordinates that, of his two chaprasis, one has taken leave and the other has resigned. The Court Sub-Inspector has taken six months' leave on the ground of ill-health. The Head Clerk, too, has applied for leave, and the second muharrir has made up his mind to take leave or resign.

One day Mr. Ainslie pitched his camp in a place about a mile from the nearest village. Nearly one hundred men attended to conduct suits. But

Mr. Ainslie spent the whole day in merry-making with other *sahibs*, and took up a case at 5 P.M. without telling the parties to the other suits whether they should wait or go away. Another day, when Mr. Ainslie was hearing a case in which 7 or 8 witnesses had been cited, a pleader asked him whether any other case would be taken up that day. Mr. Ainslie said that he could give no answer, although, as a matter of fact, it took him three more days to finish the case he was then hearing. People say that they will make offerings to their gods if Mr. Ainslie is transferred. The correspondent says that it is only the coming in of a generous Governor that emboldens him to relate these grievances of the people of Govindapur. The editor is confident that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not fail to make an enquiry into the matter.

11. The same paper complains that Babu Mahendra Nath Mitra, Small Cause Court Judge of Howrah and Hooghly, attends court during the greater part of the year from his residence in Calcutta.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

12. The same paper says that when Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Pabna, was one day watching a drill of *paharawalas* from his chamber, two boys and an infant of five happened to obstruct his view. For this offence he sent them to the thana, whence their relatives procured their release. When coming back, the boys again came across Mr. Phillips, who expressed his dissatisfaction at their release, and threatened to send them to *hajut* the next time. Has anyone ever heard of an infant of five being sent to *hajut*?

HITAVADI.

13. The same paper complains that Mr. Richardson, the present Registrar of the Calcutta High Court, keeps the Munsifs and Subordinate Judges who go to see him waiting for a long time, and, when granting them interviews, does not ask them to sit down. Judicial officers have to bear this humiliation because there is no ante-chamber in the High Court.

HITAVADI.

14. The same paper says that last year there was a falling off in the number of cases instituted in the Calcutta Small Cause Court by 1,700 and in its income by nearly Rs. 50,000. This falling off, in spite of the increasing trade of Calcutta, clearly shows that people have lost their faith in that court. The writer also hears that on the 7th February last the two Musalman Judges of that court attended court very late because they went that day to the Lieutenant-Governor to present him with an address on behalf of the Muhammadan Association. It is right that a generous Governor like Sir Alexander Mackenzie should be honoured. But Sir Alexander himself will not probably approve of the two Judges coming to present him with an address during court hours to the detriment of public business. The writer will be glad if His Honour publicly expresses his dissatisfaction with the conduct of the two Judges.

HITAVADI.

15. The same paper recommends the three able Subordinate Judges. Babu Kedarnath Mazumdar, Babu Kaliprasanna Mukharji, and Babu Balaram Mullick, for the three Assistant District and Sessions Judgeships which Government proposes to create. The writer is confident that no injustice will be done in the matter of these appointments under Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

HITAVADI.

16. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th February says that hardly had Bepin Babu, Deputy Magistrate of Bankura, finished his road cess revaluation work, when he was entrusted by Mr. Konstam with the income-tax work in this district, and people are smarting under his administration of this department, no less than they did on account of his oppressive road cess revaluation. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that Bepin Babu will be transferred from Bankura, as he has already spent about five years in this district, and as there is no necessity for keeping four Deputy Magistrates in the Sadar, the work there having been all along done by three. Indeed, the operation of the salutary rule requiring the transfer of an officer after he has spent three years in one station should no longer be deferred in Bepin Babu's favour.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

(d)—Education.

HUBLUL MATEEN,
Feb. 12th, 1896.

17. The *Hublul Mateen* of the 12th February says that one Aga Sekh Ismail Shirazi, a learned man, and a Shiah by persuasion, sometime ago submitted a petition to the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal praying for some employment in the Education Department. The Lieutenant-Governor sent the petition to Sir Alfred Croft and Sir Alfred sent it to the Principal of the Calcutta Madrassa. Mr. Rowe, who was then officiating for Dr. Hoernle, examined the candidate in order to ascertain his knowledge of English, and told him to come when Dr. Hoernle was back. The gentleman saw Dr. Hoernle and received from him hopeful assurances, but no appointment. About this time Abdur Rahim, one of the teachers in the Arabic Department, died, and Shirazi applied for his post. The Principal replied this time that as the applicant was a Shiah, he could not be appointed, as almost all the boys in the Madrassa were Sunnis, and as certain Sunni gentlemen whom he had consulted had objected to his appointment. The writer does not believe that any Sunni gentlemen really made such an objection, because he knows many Sunni gentlemen who would actually support Sekh Shirazi's candidature. Dr. Hoernle's reply has astonished the writer. It is true the Shiahs and Sunnis differ on minor religious points, but that does not stand in the way of their mixing with each other in society and even forming matrimonial connections. It is also well known that the proceeds of the fund created by Haji Mohsein, a Shiah, are freely spent by Government on the education of Sunni boys in the Madrassas, and the Shiahs never object to this. It is also a fact that in the Madrassas in the Nizam's dominions, nay in the Madrassas all over India, and we may go further and say, in the Madrassas all over the world, large numbers of Shiah teachers are entertained. Under the circumstances Dr. Hoernle's action is calculated to engender ill-feeling between the two Musalman sects. It is hoped that the Director of Public Instruction and the new Lieutenant-Governor will take note of Dr. Hoernle's action.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 13th, 1896.

18. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 13th February points out certain errors in the framing of questions in the afternoon paper in Sanskrit, which was set at the last F. A. Examination. One of the questions in that paper is about the parsing of roots, and another about the conjugation of words! Pandit Haraprasad Sastri is said to have set the questions, and the errors in his paper are no doubt due to carelessness. Again, it was customary to set a question in translation from English into Sanskrit in the F. A. afternoon paper in Sanskrit, and the absence of such a question in this year's paper may also be due to carelessness on the part of the paper-setter. It is hoped that the Pandit will have regard for his reputation and take care not to commit similar errors in future.

SAMAY,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

19. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 14th February complains that the Boinchi School in the Hooghly district is being sadly mismanaged. Under its late Headmaster, Trailokya Babu, as well as under his successor, Babu Purnananda Sen, the school saw its best days. The present headmaster is not fit for his post and often conducts himself in a childish manner. He is often seen enjoying himself in the company of his friends to the neglect of the school work. He has thus set a bad example to the other teachers, who while away their time mostly in idle talk. The teachers are very irregular in their attendance and always late at school. The consequence is that many boys have left the school, and the number of pupils has been reduced from 350 to 150. This is certainly very bad.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

20. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 15th February contains the following complaints regarding the questions set at the last F. A. Examination:—

(1) The questions in the Physical Science paper were exceedingly difficult, some of them being mathematical questions which should not have been set. There was one question from a portion of the book which was not included in the curriculum.

(2) It was cruel to ask F. A. candidates the *lung* form of certain verbs. Even learned scholars will fail to readily give a right answer to this question.

(3) The questions in the English paper were too numerous to be fully answered within the prescribed time.

21. Referring to a Calcutta paper's finding fault with the Syndicate for appointing Babu Mahendra Nath Roy an examiner for the B. A. Examination (see R. N. P. of 15th February 1896, paragraph 16), the *Bangavasi* of the 15th February says that it is not true that Mahendra Babu has no connection with education. He is a Professor of Mathematics in the City College, and has been an examiner of the Calcutta University from 1889. His appointment to an examinership is not due to the influence of Dr. Ashutosh Mukharji. Babu Mahendra Nath was an examiner long before Babu Ashutosh was elected to a seat in the Syndicate.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

22. Female education, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 15th February, is making satisfactory progress in Assam. The "Sylhet Sammilani," an association established for the purpose of encouraging female education in that province, is showing satisfactory progress. It appears from its last annual report that last year 637 female candidates passed the examination held by the Sammilani, as against 496 candidates who passed the examination in the previous year. The Assam Government recognises the Sammilani as a useful institution, and never fails to consult its opinion on current educational questions. There are in Bengal also Associations established for the purpose of spreading and encouraging female education. Unfortunately, however, their existence is not recognised by the educational authorities. The Director of Public Instruction makes no mention of them in his reports. The Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors of Schools do not look upon them with favour, and when District Boards make grants of money in aid of female education, they try their best to stop the grants. Mr. Cotton presided at a meeting of the Sylhet Sammilani held for the purpose of awarding prizes to the successful candidates, and expressed himself satisfied with the work done by that body. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Chief Secretary will draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to the existence of the associations established in Bengal for the purpose of encouraging female education.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

23. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th February complains of the inconvenience which has been caused to Bankura candidates for the Entrance Examination by the abolition of the Bankura centre. The candidates have now to come all the way to Burdwan, which is accessible by rail from Raniganj, a distance of thirty miles from Bankura town. There are no conveyances to carry the boys from Bankura to Raniganj, except bullock carts, and Messrs. R. C. Shaw and Company's poor carriages drawn by hacks for which a charge of Rs. 8 is made for each passenger. On the way to Raniganj the boys have also to cross the Damodar river. Arrived at Burdwan, the boys find no suitable boarding-houses to put up in, and are every moment liable to fall victims to the unhealthiness of that town. The writer fails to see any good ground for the abolition of the Bankura centre, as sufficient accommodation is available there to hold the examination, and there are plenty of men to conduct it. It is hoped that the Syndicate will reconsider its decision and re-establish the centre.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

24. The same paper says that if the *Sanjivani* newspaper is to be believed, Babu Beni Madhab De will not, on the expiration of his leave, revert to his former appointment of Assistant Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle, but will go away as Headmaster of the Chittagong Zilla School, and Brajendra Babu, who is officiating for Beni Babu, will be confirmed in his present appointment. Brajendra Babu is known to be in the good books of the Director of Public Instruction, but for what fault will Beni Babu be removed?

BANKURA DARPAN.

25. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 16th February praises Mr. Booth, Principal of the Hooghly College, for his taking steps to prevent Christian missionaries preaching the gospel to the students of the Hooghly College living in the boarding-house attached to the College. In the opinion of the writer Mr. Booth has shown great courage, impartiality, justice and wisdom in not allowing the missionaries

CHINSURA VARTAVA-
HA,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

to instil Christian principles into the minds of Hindu boys against the will of their guardians. The firm, but respectful, protest which Mr. Booth made in his explanation to the Lieutenant-Governor as well as to the Director of Public Instruction, against Christian missionaries interfering with the religion of Hindu boys is such as one rarely finds a European making in this country. The Chinsura people should publicly convey their thanks to Mr. Booth for what he has done to save the religion of their boys from Christian missionaries.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 17th, 1896.

26. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 17th February says that the large number of mufassal students, who come to Dacca for the prosecution of their studies, put up in private messes where they are subjected to no discipline, and where they consequently grow up not only foppish, but haughty, insolent and impatient of wholesome restraint. The character of such students remains wholly unformed even after they have finished their educational career. To put a stop to this state of things, which has existed long enough to make its effect felt by indiscreet parents, one or more boarding-houses should be opened in connection with every educational institution in Dacca. Babu Dina Nath Sen should forthwith call a meeting of the proprietors and teachers of schools in order to discuss the question and settle rules for the management of boarding-houses.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 17th, 1896.

27. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* writes as follows:—

Mr. Griffiths, Principal of the Presidency College, is also the Registrar of the Calcutta University. He is in the pay of that body. Its members are not his servants. On the contrary it is his duty to carry out their orders. Mr. Griffiths was very obliging to the Fellows of the Calcutta University when Mr. Nash resigned his post, and it was not, therefore, very difficult for him to get the Registrarship. But once in office, Mr. Griffiths has assumed a lofty appearance, and is trying his best to lord it over his masters. Very lately the peons of the University ill-treated a student belonging to a respectable family. Their conduct was brought to the notice of the Registrar, and he, the Padsha of the University, replied that the peons deserved reward and not punishment. The members of the Syndicate, however, were not cowed down or terrified by the top-lofty tone of the Registrar, and they passed a vote of censure on his conduct. Smarting under the insult, the Padsha of the Senate threatened to resign, thinking that the prospect of such a calamity was sure to strike terror into the heart of the Syndicate and bring its members to their senses. Sultan, Sir Alfred Croft, came to his rescue and bravely championed his cause. He called upon the Syndics to withdraw the vote of censure and pass a vote of confidence. In other words, he told them to ask the Registrar's pardon. Nothing daunted, the Syndicate confirmed the vote of censure passed at a previous meeting and Mr. Griffiths had to resign. Sir Alfred Croft did not act well in espousing the Registrar's cause. As Director of Public Instruction he is at liberty to do what he pleases, but as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University he ought to act with greater moderation. The Fellows of the Calcutta University are not his paid servants, and he has, by his conduct, certainly incurred their displeasure. Some of our friends have pleaded for Mr. Griffiths, but it is not unknown to us that the servants of the Calcutta University, from the Registrar downwards, think the whole world beneath their notice.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February says that the water of Tolly's Nulla is used habitually by all orthodox Hindu widows living on its banks, and occasionally by Hindus in general living near it in the performance of religious ceremonies.

Pollution of Tolly's Nulla. Draughts of the water of this Nulla are also taken by numerous pilgrims as a mark of devotion. It does not speak well for the experience of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality that he should be ignorant of such a fact. The water of this nulla is polluted by a large number of drains discharging themselves into it. The result is that the Nulla swarms with cholera germs. It would now be impracticable to stop the flow into the Nulla of the water of the drains, which have been discharging themselves into it for a long time. But it is intolerable that new drains should be connected with the Nulla by the

Municipality, and that new branch drains should be connected with the old drains which empty themselves into it. Every Hindu should try to stop this pollution of the Nulla, which is injurious alike to the material and to the spiritual interests of the Hindu.

29. The *Pratihar* of the 14th February fears a severe water-scarcity in the mufassal this year, as rivers, tanks and almost all other reservoirs of water are fast drying up for want of rain. The zamindars are becoming poorer every day, and it is not within their means to provide the people with plenty of drinking water by excavating tanks.

PRATIHAR,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

30. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 14th February is glad to observe that before inditing the resolution on the subject of the pollution of river water in Bengal by the casting of dead bodies into it, the Lieutenant-Governor consulted the public opinion of the country. Though solicitous to secure the purity of the water-supply in Bengal, His Honour has not failed to show every consideration to Hindu feeling and every respect for Hindu customs. This would not have been possible during the rule of Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is right in thinking that the Hindus are desirous of keeping the water they use pure, but that the poorer classes among them are often forced to cast their dead into the rivers, because they cannot afford to pay the cost of their cremation. While, therefore, he has prohibited the casting of dead bodies into rivers and has given the police the power to prosecute those who may violate this order, he has called upon the municipalities to provide for the cremation of dead bodies where there are not men who can afford to bear the cost of burning them. So far so good. But what about the towns and villages in which municipalities do not exist? In these places the order of the Lieutenant-Governor will be sure to arm the police with the power to harass poor men. It is true that His Honour has enjoined the police to act cautiously and with forbearance in the matter, but those who are acquainted with the doings of the police in this country cannot help suspecting that the poor people in the mufassal will not meet with a kind treatment at its hands.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

In connection with this subject it is well to draw the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the prevailing scarcity of water in the mufassal. His Honour has done well in taking measures to prevent the pollution of river water. But he can do nothing better than utilising a portion of the road cess fund in digging tanks and wells in the Bengal villages for the benefit of the poor millions.

31. The same paper of the 15th February says that for some years malarial fever has made its appearance in Calcutta, and this year it is raging virulently in the northern quarter of the town. Dr. Simpson should put aside his scientific researches and look after the health of the rate-payers.

SULABH DAINIK.

32. The same paper says that in the absence of good lights in the Harrison Road, *gundas* and *badmashes* have become rampant in that part of the town. The municipal authorities should therefore promptly decide the question of lighting the road.

SULABH DAINIK.

33. With reference to the Bengal Government notification No. 290M., dated the 18th January last, expressing its willingness to advance a loan of Rs. 2,000 to the Debhatta Municipality in the Khulna district for the re-excavation of two tanks, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 15th February says that there is no present necessity for the excavation or re-excavation of tanks in the Debhatta Municipality, which, limited as its area is, contains at least two dozen tanks whose water is as good for drinking purposes as can be obtained in any village in Bengal. The most pressing necessity of the rate-payers is not a supply of good drinking water, but good drains to carry away rain water in the rainy season, and an embankment on the Patna *beel*, a portion of which is going to be included in the municipality, so that the homes and hearths of the rate-payers may be saved from floods, and the health of the municipality improved. The attacks of malarial fever, to which the place has been subject for some years, have been due to floods in the *beel*, which, in the present dilapidated condition of the embankment, and in the absence of good drains, keep the place under water for the best

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

portion of the year. The tanks to be re-excavated ought to be those situated at either extremity of the village, but, those tanks will be of no use to the residents who cannot keep servants to fetch water from a distance. But even if re-excavation is admitted to be a necessity, why should a large sum like two thousand rupees be required for the purpose? Tanks cannot be excavated very deep in Debhatta, and labour and other requisite things are remarkably cheap. Rupees five hundred ought to be sufficient for the purpose, and the municipality can provide that out of its funds and without having recourse to a loan. Considering the limited means of the municipality, the Government should take care not to burden its resources by advancing the proposed loan.

DARSAN,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

34. The *Darsak* of the 16th February has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on municipal matters. When Sir Alexander Mackenzie assured us that he would closely follow the policy of Sir Ashley Eden, he did not inspire us with hope, although he convinced us that he would prove a better ruler than Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Ashley Eden was indeed a strong ruler who kept the civilians under control and was not helplessly guided by the opinion of others. But he depended more on himself than upon the opinion of the public. He was not an admirer of the native press or a friend of Local Self-Government, and he often plainly said that Local Self-Government was not likely to bear good fruit.

It, therefore, gives us great pleasure to see that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a staunch friend of Local Self-Government. His recent utterances in connection with municipal administration in this country convince us that during his rule Local Self-Government will prosper as it never prospered before. "I fear from some of the papers in my file," said he in his Howrah water-works speech, "that in some of the municipalities there is a party opposed to sanitary reform and a party in favour of a good water-supply and good drainage. But I do not on that account despair either of the future of those towns or of the future of Local Self-Government." His Honour also expressed his approval of Lord Ripon's policy in this matter. "It is essential," said he, "above all things to have patience and trust to time and the influences of example and good education in bringing about the acceptance of improved methods." It is a pity that there are many officials who have as yet to learn the value of patience, and who are anxious to introduce a forcing system in municipal administration in order to carry out reforms. They are quite unacquainted with the condition of the people, and would turn every village under the jurisdiction of a municipality into a first-class town. We hope that these men will profit by the words of the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor further observed that ten or fifteen years were, after all, but a short span in the history of a Province, and yet he, on his part, was well satisfied with the progress made in Local Self-Government since he was last in Bengal. He found an astonishing amount of good work done. He found generally a higher standard of reform accepted or followed out by local bodies. And if here and there they appeared to hang back, and be what energetic officers called obstructive, this was, he knew, very often from a perfectly reasonable hesitation as to ways and means. His Honour also referred to the poverty of the mufassal people, and though he had no doubt that in many instances they might, with a little financial guidance and occasional provincial aid, do more than they had yet seen their way to attempting, he was not disposed to rush them unduly or press them harshly. These words of the Lieutenant-Governor are sure to prove extremely comforting to the mufassal people. In the mufassal now-a-days people are harassed in the name of Local Self-Government, and are heavily taxed so that the officials in power may be pleased.

Sir Charles Elliott has passed the drainage law to drive out malaria, but Sir Alexander Mackenzie plainly said that he on his part believed more in water-supply than in costly and dubious engineering projects. This leads us to hope that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not impose a drainage tax on the people or sanction costly drainage works. We are also led to hope that he will take steps to remove the prevailing water-scarcity in the mufassal.

35. The same paper is not disposed to find fault with zamindars for not digging wells and tanks in their zamindaris as their predecessors did. The Government imposed the road cess for the making of roads and the providing of water in the mufassal. But it is now never used for the purpose of making provision for good water-supply, and the people, and the zamindars in particular, ought to remind the Government of its promise and induce it to fulfil it. Regarded in this light, Maharaja Durga Charan Law did a public service in refusing to dig a well in his zamindari in Nadia, and asking the Magistrate of that district to dig a well there and defray the cost out of the road cess fund. If all the zamindars follow the example set by the Maharaja, the Government may some day be induced to fulfil its promise.

DARSAK,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

36. The *Banganivasi* of the 16th February does not think that the Food Inspectors of the Calcutta Municipality are doing their work properly. One or two prosecutions a month for *phooka* and sale of adulterated milk or ghee will not do. The Inspectors should visit every sweetmeat-shop, every fish and vegetable stall, every *mudi's* shop and every Hindu or Musalman hotel.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

37. The Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta, says the *Suabih Dainik* of the 18th February, have at last decided to appoint Mr. Williams as their Chairman on the salary and allowance he asked for. Many people hold a high opinion of Mr. Williams' abilities, and we hope that he will effect some improvement in the condition of the town. But we must say that the appointment has been a most inadvisable one. The rate-payers are groaning under the burden of taxation, and retrenchment should be the business of the municipality now-a-days. It was urged that an able Chairman could not be obtained on a smaller salary. That might be true as regards a Civilian Chairman, but where was the necessity for a Civilian Chairman at any cost?

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 18th, 1896.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

38. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th February cannot approve of Mr. Luttmann-Johnson's suggestion to extend the proposed railway line from Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district to Jagannathganj and not to Subarnakhali. It is true, as Mr. Luttmann-Johnson says, that the greater part of the Jamalpur jute traffic is carried on by the Jagannathganj route, but it is certain that the whole of this traffic will be diverted to Subarnakhali if it is connected by rail with Jamalpur. If the line is carried to Jagannathganj it will not benefit places like Bhengulla, Bhadurirhat and Jhawail, which export considerable quantities of jute, and the villages south of Bansibangali and south-east of Subarnakhali. If these considerations do not lead the authorities to decide in favour of the Jamalpur-Subarnakhali route, the fact that the Goalundo steamer has to stop a whole night at Subarnakhali on its way to Jagannathganj—an inconvenience to mail and passengers which can be got over by connecting Subarnakhali with a railway system—ought to lead them to decide in its favour. The Chief Engineer and the District Magistrate of Mymensingh are both in favour of this route.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 11th, 1896.

The writer fails to see of what use a line between Ratanganj in the Tangail sub-division and Bahadurabad in the Jamalpur sub-division, which has been proposed by Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, will be to any place of commercial importance in either sub-division. It is the proposed Jamalpur-Subarnakhali line which should be extended *via* Ratanganj to Gafargaon or Kaoraid on the Dacca-Mymensingh line. Ratanganj and Balla are the two principal ports in these parts for the export of jute, and the construction of the proposed railway will divert the whole jute traffic, and the exports of tobacco and other merchandise from Assam and Rangpur to the Subarnakhali or Narayanganj route. The two principal ports and jute marts in East Bengal are Sirajganj and Narayanganj; and Subarnakhali being situated on the bank of the river, almost exactly opposite to Sirajganj, it is highly desirable that it should be connected by rail with Narayanganj.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

39. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February learns from a correspondent that though the ticket room at the Sealdah station is now kept open throughout the day, a man is not always there to sell tickets. Thus the place is crowded and *paharawallas* exact bribes for allowing people to go in.

HITAVADI.

40. Babu Amrita Lal Roy, a resident of Chetla, informs the same paper that some days ago a zamindar and his gomasta were travelling in a second-class carriage on the East Indian Railway with four soldiers who were going to Kalka. The soldiers were all politeness at first, but when the train had passed Hooghly, and was on its way to Burdwan, they produced a large knife and told the zamindar to give them all the money about him. In fear of his life, the zamindar gave them all, but they suspected that he had more, and to get that out of him, began to wound him lightly with the knife. The gomasta, who tried to save his master, was himself wounded. The soldiers then produced a larger knife and was about to kill the zamindar, when fortunately the train arrived at the Burdwan station. The Babu and his gomasta jumped out of the carriage leaving their things behind them, which the soldiers subsequently threw out of the carriage. The Babu informed the Station-master of what had happened. The Station-master did not attend to him then, but occupied himself with other things. When the train had left the station, the Station-master attended to the zamindar's representation and told him that he could not help him in any way. The Station-master clearly neglected his duty in taking no steps for the arrest of the soldiers. The Railway authorities should enquire into the matter.

HITAISHI,
Feb. 18th, 1896.

Mismanagement on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

41. The *Hitaishi* of the 18th February complains that the local morning trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway do not reach Sealdah in time, and thereby seriously inconvenience passengers who have to attend office at an appointed hour.

The writer also draws attention to the fact that on the 4th February last the train which left Sealdah at 6-15 P.M. did not stop at the Titagurh station, although the station staff gave signals for stopping it. Considering the mismanagement on this line, it would be better for Government to place it in the hands of a private Company.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 19th, 1896.

42. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 19th February complains that oppression by railway porters on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal lines has grown intolerable to native passengers. These porters are shrewd men. They never behave discourteously to European passengers. It is native passengers that they often pick out as their victims. They often demand exorbitant remuneration and never fail to exact their demands. If any passenger refuses to pay the high remuneration they demand, they take recourse to tricks and try their best to make him miss a train. Native passengers being naturally very peaceful do not like to take the trouble of bringing the conduct of these porters to the notice of the railway authorities. The porters know this and do not fail to take advantage of this trait in the native character. It is complained that these men demand remuneration even for service which they are bound to lend to passengers free. The railway authorities are not unacquainted with these facts, and it is even said that some of the railway officers are in the habit of conniving at this oppression of passengers by the railway porters as they have a share in their ill-gotten gains. The railway authorities should no longer remain indifferent, and should put a stop to the oppression by railway porters as soon as possible.

(h)—General.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

43. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February says that if the Mr. Konstam who has been appointed Under-Secretary in the General and Revenue Department be the "My dear Konstam" of Bihar, it has no reason to be sorry at his appointment; for in the Secretariat he will not be able to do any public harm, while as a Magistrate he might do injustice at the request of others.

44. The *Sanjivani* of the 15th February makes the following observations on the proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam:—

The proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam.

When a proposal was made to amalgamate the Chin and the Lushai Hills with Assam, the Assam Government pointed out that these places had intimate trade relations with the Chittagong district, and the cause of good administration would suffer if they were amalgamated with Assam, while Chittagong remained a part and parcel of Bengal. This argument however, which proved convincing to the late Lieutenant-Governor, does not appear to us to possess much weight. But even if we can persuade ourselves to accept the argument as valid, it would warrant the amalgamation of only the Chittagong district with Assam and not of Noakhali and Tippera. But why should the civilised people of Chittagong be after all brought under the jurisdiction of a non-regulation Province, simply because you cannot otherwise dispose of the Chin and the Lushai Hills which are inhabited by uncivilised tribes? Moreover, if these Hills be brought under the jurisdiction of Bengal, are they likely to prove a heavy burden on the Government of that Province? Most probably not, seeing that that Government has never complained of taking care of the hill tracts of the Chittagong Division. It is most likely, however, that Chittagong will be transferred to Assam, all public protest notwithstanding. But then there is one hope. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has instructed the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division to ascertain the opinion of the people of that Division on the proposed amalgamation, and if they can make it sufficiently clear to that officer that they strongly object to be brought under the jurisdiction of Assam, there is some likelihood of the proposal being given up.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

45. The same paper observes that the charges preferred by it against Messrs. Vernieux and Jewell, two employés in the Office of the Comptroller of Postal Accounts, India (see Report of Native Papers of 15th February, paragraph 35,) have upset Mr. Sandell. He has taken into his consideration the complaint made by Babu Anurup Chandra Banerji, but strange to say, he has suspended the complainer instead of taking the man complained against to task. What is stranger still, Mr. Sandell has suspended not only Babu Anurup Chandra Banerji, but also Babu Anilendra Nath Mukharji, another employé in his office, on the suspicion that he had drafted the petition for Babu Anurup Chandra. It may be safely conjectured that Mr. Sandell has suspended these two gentlemen on the suspicion that it is they that supplied the *Sanjivani* with the information which formed the subject of the article published in its columns. The Comptroller may, however, rest assured that that is not the case. But have the native employés in the Comptroller's office no chance of getting justice against their European and Eurasian superiors? The Comptroller-General, India, is an upright man, and it is to be hoped that he will right the wrong done by Mr. Sandell to two innocent native clerks in his office.

SANJIVANI.

Mr. Sandell is fifty-nine years old. He has long exceeded the age-limit laid down in the Civil Service Regulations. But while he himself remains in office at the age of fifty-nine, he is compelling all the native clerks who have exceeded the age-limit to retire from service. And this is not all. Mr. Sandell, it is said, is trying his best to promote Mr. Kelly to the post of Assistant Comptroller in supersession of the superior claims of able and experienced officers like Babu Brajalal Chakravarti, Babu Jogendranath Ghatak, and Mr. J. C. Jore. Mr. Kelly has not yet been confirmed in the post in which he is officiating and drawing a pay of Rs. 250 a month. He is going to be at once promoted to a post of Rs. 500 a month. Will not the Comptroller-General give this matter his consideration?

46. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 16th February has the following:—

The present policy of the Government.

The British rule in India has done us more good than harm. Consciously or unconsciously the English have taught us many valuable lessons. It is they that have taught us to think for our country, and it is under their rule that it has been made possible for the different nationalities of India to meet together and discuss questions effecting their vital interests. In one word, it is the English that have for the first time taught us to understand that we have a duty to do not only to ourselves, but also to our country and

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

our countrymen—that we should love whatever we can call our own. That we shall have to repent some day or other if we give up our ancestral faith and renounce our ancestral customs is also an invaluable lesson which we have learnt to our cost under British rule. If the patriotic and liberty-loving English people had not come to this country, we would not have learnt these lessons so soon.

It is a great misfortune, however, that there has recently been brought about a change—a remarkable change—in the policy of the British Government in India. There are no longer those amicable relations, those friendly interchanges of thoughts and ideas which not long ago existed between the rulers and the ruled in this country. Englishmen in these days are seen to hate the people of India and look upon them as well as the Native Chiefs with disfavour. The British Government is always seen seeking pretexts to annex the Native States, and the Residents and Political Agents are making matters too hot for their rulers and are rendering their lives insecure. Seeds of discontent are being sown wide in the minds of the people. We have certainly fallen upon evil days, and there is no hope for us if the Government does not treat us a little more kindly, give up its crooked policy, and take the Indian people and the Native Chiefs into its confidence. It is upon English kindness and English forbearance that we solely depend, and will not the English Government treat its subjects a little more kindly and a little more frankly—with greater confidence and more candour? The weal or woe of millions of men and women depend upon the policy it follows, and does it befit the mighty British Government to be selfish, headstrong and hard-hearted in its dealings with the millions of the Indian people? Does it not behove our rulers, we ask in all humility, to be more just and impartial and kind in their treatment of the subject people? It is by your sufferance that we enjoy whatever we are fortunate enough to enjoy at present. Will you take back what you have given us to enjoy? If you suspect us, say so plainly, and do in a straightforward manner whatever you think it proper to do for the good of the State. But do not keep us in the dark, do not torture us on the rack of fear and suspicion.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 17th, 1896.

47. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 17th February writes as follows:—

Rumoured transfer of the Dacca and Mymensingh districts to Assam.

A rumour was afloat some time ago that Government intended to amalgamate the whole of the Dacca and Mymensingh districts, north of the Dhaleswari river, with Assam. The writer had no information at that time to enable him to ascertain the correctness of the rumour. But the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 14th February says that Government has such a scheme really under its consideration, and tells the Dacca and Mymensingh people to take timely warning, because he knows the ways of the Government of this country, which, though monarchical in name, is conducted more whimsically than an absolute despotism. In reply to Babu Mohini Mohan's interpellation on the subject, Government stated that the question of the transfer of the Chittagong district was settled so long ago as 1892, and only the question of the transfer of the other two districts of the division was now under its consideration. Could anything be more disquieting than this news? The question of the transfer was settled years ago, but people knew nothing about it! To Mohini Babu's request for the production of the papers of the case, Government did not give a satisfactory reply. Still the public did not ascribe to Government any sinister motive in the matter. But what is this the people hear now? If Government has really an intention of extending the Assam administration to the banks of the Dhaleswari, let it speak out, so that the people may have a full knowledge of their situation, and unburden their hearts by giving vent to their grief before dying a political death.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 17th, 1896.

48. The Hon'ble Balwant Rao agreed to the motion to refer the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill to the Select Committee, says the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 17th February, on the supposition that the discussion of the principle of the Bill was reserved. Like ourselves, the Rao Sahib deprecates any further restricting

of the jury system, and would rather free it from all restrictions whatever. We fail to understand why the Rao Sahib has been excluded from the Select Committee. Is it because he objects to the principle of the Bill, which does not form a subject of discussion in the Select Committee? The Honorable Member, we know, will be allowed to have his say when the Bill comes for discussion before the Council, but who ever knew that a Bill which had come out of the Select Committee stage was afterwards thrown out? The very fact that the Rao Sahib, who has an objection to the principle of the Bill, has been excluded from the Select Committee is an indication that the Bill will be passed. The Viceroy and Sir Alexander Miller have been taking credit for generosity and deference to public opinion in proposing to withdraw the special verdict clause which has been objected to by many officials and by the whole Anglo-Indian community. We would have been really glad if Sir Alexander Miller had been able to extend his generosity so far as to withdraw the whole Bill. But Sir Alexander is an enemy of the jury system.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

49. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th February writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 11th, 1896.

The Jhalwar and Patna affairs. The Political Agents are all-powerful in the Native States, and taking advantage of Lord Elgin's weakness have become quite arbitrary and despotic. It is the popular belief that the sufferings of the native princes are due to the tyrannical conduct of the Political Agents. Perfect anarchy prevails in Jhalwar. The Maharana is a prisoner. The Government's troops have been called into the State and their presence has frightened the people. But who is responsible for this state of things in Jhalwar? The charges which were brought against the Maharana have all been proved false. The *Morning Post* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* are publishing the real facts, and according to the former paper the Maharana is being unnecessarily harassed. The conspiracy against the Maharana was set on foot by some of his enemies. The *Pioneer* newspaper and the Political Agent have since lent their support to the conspirators. But how long will Lord Elgin remain indifferent to the internal affairs of the Native States? The unnecessary persecution of the ruler of Jhalwar has not only surprised the public but has alarmed all the native princes of India.

The *Pioneer* has ascribed madness to the Maharana of Jhalwar, and the Political Agent of Chattisgarh has attributed the tragic end of the Maharaja of Patna to the same cause. Has then insanity become a prevailing disease among the native princes of India? It appears from the letters published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that the cause of the sad and violent end of the Maharaja of Patna was the haughty treatment to which he was subjected by the Political Agent. Government was not justified in accepting without demur the Political Agent's report about the cause of the Maharaja's death and in deciding that no further enquiry into the matter was necessary. The Political Agent's report may have satisfied the Government, but it has failed to give satisfaction to the public. One is at a loss to understand why Government shrinks from a public enquiry into the affair.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 12th February thanks Government for the deference it has paid to public opinion by giving a reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Bhaskute's question

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 12th, 1896.

relating to the late Maharaja of Patna. But, unfortunately, the reply has not satisfied the public. A perusal of the letters which have been published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and which were written by the Maharaja with his own hand, does not lead one to the conclusion that the Maharaja was mad; one would rather arrive at a contrary conclusion from a perusal of them. The letters make it clear that it was the ill-treatment and tyrannical behaviour of the Political Agent which made life too heavy a burden for him and led him to put an end to it. He grew desperate when all endeavours to mend matters failed, and it was then that he lost the equilibrium of his mind and took the resolution to fly from the evils of this life by committing suicide. Dr. Fraser and his son, Mr. Fraser, a former Commissioner of Chattisgarh, were both on intimate terms with the Maharaja, and in their letters, which have been carefully preserved, testify to the Maharaja's intelligence, humility, courteousness and conscientiousness. Mr. Woodburn himself bore testimony to the Maharaja's intelligence and

uprightness. Are not these testimonies sufficient evidence that the Maharaja was not insane? The Maharaja was not certainly in a right state of mind when he committed the murder and the suicide, for who can commit such crimes in a right mood? The Political Agent may be a perfect gentleman. And he certainly had no inkling that his treatment of the Maharaja was souring the latter's temper. If he had, he would undoubtedly have tried his best to avert the tragedy. But there is no denying that Political Agents do not always treat the Native Chiefs in whose courts they are stationed in a manner which can be approved.

The writer, therefore, earnestly requests Government to make another enquiry into the circumstances of the tragedy for the satisfaction of the public. The enquiry it has already made was conducted by the Political Agent, who, though he might be a man of unimpeachable honesty in other respects, had a clear interest in its result. He might, therefore, unwittingly as it were, have conducted it on wrong lines.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1893.

51. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February writes as follows:—

Jhalwar.

A fresh charge has now been preferred by the *Pioneer* against the Maharana of Jhalwar, namely, that he appeared before the Agent to the Governor-General with a loaded revolver ostentatiously displayed in his belt. The *Pioneer* finds in this an indication of an unsound mind, if not of anything worse. We, for ourselves, can find no indication of either madness or a desire to rebel in this conduct of the Maharana. After he had been frightened in the way he was, the Maharana could not think of appearing before the Agent unarmed, and no man in his position would think of doing so. After the treatment he had received the suspicion was natural that he would be asked to submit his neck to the knife with the meekness of a lamb.

It was not possible for the Maharana, under such circumstances, to have any faith in the Political Agent. He was therefore forced to go armed for the protection of his person and honour, in case either was assailed. If the worst comes to the worst, what man is there that would not see the man who has insulted him laid low before he himself died. There is nothing, therefore, to be surprised at in the fact that the Maharana appeared before the Agent armed with a revolver. The vilest worm, if repeatedly trampled upon, turns against the oppressor. There is a limit to the patience and forbearance of every creature.

If the Maharana had any sinister design he would not have appeared with a revolver ostentatiously displayed in his belt. If he had appeared with a revolver concealed under his clothes such a suspicion might have been justifiable. But an ostentatious display of a revolver is not a proof of a secret design.

We say all this on the assumption that every word of the *Pioneer* is true. But what proof is there that the *Pioneer* has said the truth? How does it know that the revolver was loaded? Evidence is also necessary to establish the fact that the Maharana carried a revolver at all. There is no other evidence of this than the *Pioneer's* unsupported statement.

Those who want a pretext are never at a loss for it. Some pretext or other will be found for the dethronement of Zalim Singh. The charges of hostile preparations, administrative incapacity, oppression, eccentricity and sinister design have been now exhausted. And Zalim Singh's dethronement will be at last secretly demanded for the sake of prestige, if for nothing else.

This bolt from the blue in Jhalwar is wholly due to the indiscretion of the officials. Even Anglo-Indian papers like the *Morning Post* say that it is the English officers who have committed oppression in Jhalwar, and a public enquiry should therefore be held on Jhalwar affairs. We too heartily wish that, in the interests of justice and righteousness, as well as of the good name of England, a public enquiry may be held.

HITAVADI.

52. The same paper never hoped, as some did, that the publication by the

The Patna tragedy.

Amrita Bazar Patrika of the letters of the late Maharaja of Patna would compel Government to take a serious notice of the conduct of the Political Agent of that state. Lord Elgin, it is true, has come to India very lately and his administration has not yet been completely tarnished. But it was not to be supposed that with his satellites round him he would be able to forget all consideration of prestige.

Our fears have now been justified. In reply to an interpellation on the subject in the Viceregal Council, Mr. Woodburn stated on behalf of Government that the late Maharaja suffered from mental aberration. His acts and his letters, however, show no signs of madness. The argument which Government is using in order to show that the Maharaja was mad is a very curious one. The Maharaja's mother, says Government, was mad, and therefore the Maharaja too must have been mad. Government has also accepted for gospel truth what the then Political Agent of Patna said to exculpate himself.

The Maharaja's letters clearly show that he was in full possession of his senses and that it was the harsh treatment of the Political Agent that drove him to commit suicide. He may have had his eccentricities as many people have, but the letter he addressed to Dr. Fraser father of the Commissioner of Chattisgarh shortly before committing suicide leaves no doubt whatever about his sanity. When Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, Mr. Woodburn himself rebuked the Political Agent several times for his conduct towards the Maharaja. Government's reply to the interpellation has really grieved the writer. The interpellation, too, was not properly framed. Government should have been asked to say whether the letters that had been published are genuine or not, and if it really received those letters from the Maharaja what steps it took in the matter. Such an interpellation would have brought out the secret. Even if any sign of madness was ever noticed in the Maharaja, it must have been due to the oppression committed by the Political Agent. The matter should, if necessary, be carried before Parliament and should by no means be allowed to drop.

53. The *Samay* of the 14th February has the following:—

The Political Agents in the Native States.

The condition of a Native Chief in India is pitiable in the extreme. If he has to represent anything to the Viceroy he must represent it through the Political Agent, and if the latter shelves his representation, there the matter must end. The Native Chief can then ponder over his grievances at his leisure, and if he cannot put up with his wrongs, it is he that must suffer. English philanthropists are in the habit of shedding tears over the miserable lot of the newly-married Hindu bride in her husband's family. To our mind the lot of a Native Chief is worse than this. She may be ill-treated and tyrannised over by her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law, but she has at least one consolation. She has the advantage of confiding her complaints to her husband. But an Indian Chief has never the opportunity of finding himself alone with the Viceroy and of personally representing his grievances to him. In most of the Natives States freedom of the Press is not tolerated. The Press being gagged and the Native Chiefs being helpless tools in the hands of the Political Agents, there is no opportunity of the public ever coming to know what is going on in them. It is strange that such a state of things should be allowed to exist under British rule, and that the Viceroy should consent to such an un-English policy being adopted in the administration of the Native States. In British India a notorious felon has the right of demanding a fair trial even if a confession of his guilt before the police is pleaded against him; but such is the misfortune of a Native Chief, that even this bare justice is denied to him.

Whenever we have occasion to think of the dethroned and imprisoned Native Chiefs of India, it strikes us as very strange why they did not commit suicide rather than surrender themselves to the paramount power. This miserable clinging to life shows that they did not deserve a better treatment, that they were not fit to rule territories. Fie to them! Fie to them that, deprived of power and despoiled of glory, they should, like hunted jackals chained at the hunter's gate, prefer to drag a miserable existence on earth and proclaim the glory of the victorious power. King Theebaw might have easily put an end to his life before he was taken prisoner, but he chose to exchange his freedom for a life of surveillance, and he is, to our utter disgust, leading a servile miserable existence, apparently contented with his lot.

The truth is that, according to the fundamental principles of British policy, a just and conscientious treatment is to be accorded only to a powerful State; and such treatment is thoroughly out of place when the British Government has to deal with a weak and helpless Native Chief. The British Government is

SAMAY,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

never in the habit of disgorging territory which has once passed down its throat. A few conscientious Englishmen like John Bright may raise a voice of protest; but the voice of righteousness is soon drowned in the voice of self-interest. The British Government, moreover, looks upon every Englishman as one of its kith and kin, and never fails to support him even in his wrong doing or to defend his honour and prestige, which it invariably identifies with its own. A Native Chief cannot therefore expect to have justice against a Political Agent. What could the Native Chiefs or the Indian public do to Sir Lepel Griffin? The fact is that, armed with unlimited power, a Political Agent in a Native State is the lord of all he surveys. There is not a more powerful man in the whole world than a Political Agent in a Native State. With an Amar Singh or a Bhawani Singh on his side there is nothing that a Political Agent cannot do to ruin a Native Chief who may have incurred his displeasure.

To those Englishmen who think that they have conquered India with the sword and must rule it with the sword, the Native Chiefs appear only as gaudy figures in a puppet show. They cannot tolerate their existence as awkward intermediaries between the British Government and the Indian people. They think that they will do incalculable good to the British Government if they can remove these puppets off the face of the earth, and that it is only the gracious Proclamation of Her Majesty that stands in the way of their carrying out their pious purpose. It is this that excites in us the fear that danger is in store for the Jhalwar Chief.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

54. The *Sanjivani* of the 15th February thus comments upon the Home Member's reply to the interpellation made in the Viceregal Council regarding the suicide committed by the Maharaja of Patna in the Central Provinces:—

The Patna tragedy in the Viceregal Council.

It is the impression of the Indian public that it was ill-treatment by the Political Agent that made the Maharaja of Patna sick of his life, and forced him to the resolution to kill his wife and commit suicide. But, strange to say, the Government has placed implicit confidence in the report of the Political Agent, and has treated this serious matter with regrettable indifference. The public should be acquainted with the facts and arguments on which the Political Agent has based the theory that the Maharaja killed his wife because the latter did not agree to pay him money out of her private purse to enable him to pay a visit to Europe. The Agent's arguments may satisfy the Government; they are not likely to satisfy the public. The public cannot also understand what makes Mr. Woodburn, in his capacity of Home Member, attribute the Patna tragedy to the insanity of the Maharaja, whose sanity he, in his capacity of Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, had no reason to question, and whom he always regarded as thoroughly pliant, docile and willing to abide by the counsels of the Political Agent. The Government should institute an inquiry into this case instead of relying solely upon the report of the Political Agent.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

55. The *Bangavasi* of the 15th February observes that the prospects of the crops in Bengal are not satisfactory. The rice crop has been a failure. The *rabi* crop is not likely to prove a success. There is suffering in store for the people.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 1th 1896.

56. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's advice to the Musalmans, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 11th February, will be instructive to all classes of people in India, and his statement that Government can shew no special favour to the Musalmans in the giving away of appointments, because there are other people as loyal as the Musalmans, will be particularly soothing to the Hindus, whose feelings were trampled under foot under his predecessor. As a matter of fact, the rigour and fierceness which characterised Sir Charles Elliott's Administration seem already to have passed away. Note the difference between the utterances of the present Lieutenant-Governor and those of his predecessor. Sir Charles

Elliott never believed in the loyalty of the Hindus and seldom lost an opportunity of giving vent to his antipathy against them, while Sir Alexander Mackenzie says that in his experience he has found the Bengalis, both Hindu and Musalman, a kindly people, grateful for courteous treatment and good words given. Sir Charles Elliott, by word and deed, created ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans, while Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply to the Muhammadan addresses will soothe the minds of both the communities. Indeed, the people of Bengal hold high expectations regarding Sir Alexander, who has a thorough acquaintance with the province and its people.

57. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th February cannot understand how the Lieutenant-Governor told General Booth that waste lands were not available in Bengal for his proposed agricultural colonies, when there is yet a good deal of such land in the Sundarbans. His Honour said that he might procure for the purpose a grant of waste lands in Burma. But it is not likely that Bengal cultivators will agree to live among a strange and turbulent people in a land so far away from their home.

This is the first objection to General Booth's colonisation scheme. His motive in this connection is also open to suspicion, considering what little scruple is shown by Christian Missionaries in converting Indians to Christianity. Indians cannot yet have forgotten how the Christian Missionaries converted to Christianity hundreds of famished persons in Chittagong by the inducement of a handful of rice. Every one also knows how the Missionaries male and female are poisoning the happiness of Indian homes by enticing away young and foolish people.

If the General, therefore, wants the hearty co-operation of the public, he must give a definite assurance that he has no proselytising scheme in view in this connection, and that members of all religious communities will have a place on the committee which will be appointed to carry out the scheme.

58. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, observes the *Saraswat Patra* of the 15th February, has within a few days proved a popular ruler. He has already given proofs of his justice, impartiality and conscientiousness. In his resolution on the pollution of the water of rivers in Bengal he has shown praiseworthy moderation, and his reply to the addresses of the Musulman community is marked throughout by consummate statesmanship, far-reaching insight, and a deep sense of impartiality. Taking his stand on sublime moral principles, he advised the Musalman community to depend more on themselves than upon the favour of the Government. "Remember," said he, "that if you are to win permanently your full share of the loaves and fishes of the State, your motto must always be 'self-help is the best patron.'" One could not have expected this from Sir Charles Elliott who, while patting the Musalman on the back, frowned upon the Hindu. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, on the other hand, shows favour to neither. He makes no distinction of Hindu and Musalman. It is ability and fitness alone that he at all takes care to encourage and reward. There was one thing, moreover, in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech which the people of Bengal will never forget. From the same high official pedestal from which Sir Charles Elliott railed at the Hindus and called them "black heathens," Sir Alexander made the following soothing and comforting observations:—"They (the Bengalis) are in my experience a kindly people, grateful for courteous treatment and good words given." No wonder, then, that the people should worship their new Lieutenant-Governor.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie gave a striking proof of his conscientiousness in the speech delivered by him on the occasion of the passing of the Cotton Duties and Tariff Bills. He stood alone in the midst of the official members in his firm but respectful protest against the passing of the unjust measures. It is for all these that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has already filled a large space in the heart of the people.

59. The *Bangavasi* of the 15th February has the following:—

Sir Charles Elliott and Sir Alexander Mackenzie—a contrast.

There is not a more loyal and law-abiding people on the face of the earth than the Bengalis. A few kind words are enough to win their gratitude. But Sir Charles Elliott had all but goaded this docile people to desperation.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

He did what no other Lieutenant-Governor before him even dreamt of doing. He out-Campbelled even Sir George Campbell. Halliday or Grant, Beadon or Gray, Temple, Thompson, or Bayley, none could hold the candle to Sir Charles Elliott in hauteur and high-handedness. None of Sir Charles' predecessors showed any very great favour to the Bengalis. To use a Bengali adage, they did not pull down the moon to humour the people. All of them held the reins of Government tight, but none of them applied the lash to the back of the people like Sir Charles Elliott. Sir George Campbell, it is true, made matters too hot for the people, but it was only for a time, and, compared to Sir Charles Elliott, he was an incarnation of peace. We do not say that all the Lieutenant-Governors before Sir Charles Elliott were good and that Sir Charles Elliott alone was bad. On the contrary, we know that Sir Charles Elliott is a good man. He has a kind heart. He goes to church every Sunday and regularly reads the Holy Bible. But the truth is that Sir Charles Elliott never gave any proof of his goodness in his public acts. He left nothing undone to offend the people. During the Ilbert Bill controversy Sir Rivers Thompson gave the people cause for dissatisfaction. But in his quarrel with Lord Ripon he did not abuse the people. He did not call the people "black heathens." He did not openly charge them with disloyalty and disaffection. Sir Rivers, too, was an orthodox Christian, but he was never in the habit of extolling Christianity at the cost of Hinduism. He did not encourage cow-killing in resolutions and speeches. Sir Rivers Thompson was not an admirer of the native press. Its writings often upset him, and he now and then vented his spleen against it. But it was not a settled principle with him to abuse the vernacular papers. Unlike Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Rivers Thompson was not in the habit of talking in one unbroken strain of abuse. His invective was now and then interspersed with commendation. But Sir Charles Elliott swore never to speak a good word about the people or their press. He promised to himself never to be courteous.

In this, Sir Charles Elliott committed a huge blunder. He was like the proverbial Burdwan pedagogue. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" was his motto. Meek and docile as are the people of Bengal, he thought of making them still more meek and docile. Let them sleep in peace, he thought, what though they cannot have a full meal every day. The consequence of this misguided policy was such as could be naturally expected. The people of Bengal can never turn disloyal, but never were they so discontented as they were during the rule of Sir Charles Elliott. It is true that the discontent of a peaceful people like the Bengalis can do the Government no harm. But the misery of the people is the misery of the Government. It is no good oppressing and ill-treating the subject people.

But let Sir Charles Elliott alone. Sir Alexander Mackenzie presents a striking contrast to him. He has already given the foreshadowing of a good and wise policy. He has taken the straight road. A disciple of Sir Ashley Eden, he is not likely to be led astray through want of judgment. If he falters, he will steady his foot-steps. If he commits an error he will mend it. To err is human. To mend an error, let us say, is divine. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has before him examples good as well as bad to guide him along in the right path. He has the example of Sir Ashley Eden. He has the example of Sir Charles Elliott. The one warns him against doing wrong. The other will help him in doing right.

BANGAVASI.
Feb. 15th, 1896.

60. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, observes the same paper, said in reply to the address of the Musalman community that he loved the Hindus and the Musalmans alike, and did not think that the latter were the only loyal subjects of the Government. This is just what one would expect from an impartial ruler. But after the indulgence given to them by Sir Charles Elliott, even these just words will probably taste bitter to many Musalmans.

BANGAVASI.

61. The same paper is glad to understand that the Lieutenant-Governor is trying to bring about a reconciliation between the Hindus and the Musalmans. It will not take long to convince these two sections of the people of the folly of quarrelling among themselves. What is most wanted is that headstrong and

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Musalmans.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie as a peace-maker.

meddlesome officials should be warned against leaning towards either of the two conflicting parties. It is these officials that are most to blame for the Hindu-Musalman quarrels. The Hindus and the Musalmans should also take care of themselves.

62. The ostensible object, observes the same paper, of General Booth's Indian peasant settlement scheme is no doubt a philanthropic one. It is to provide occupation and food for the half-starved millions of India. At heart, however, General Booth's object is to proselytize the Indian people. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces has promised to help the General with a grant of lands and also of money, if he can reform the Sansias, a criminal tribe in that province. If General Booth can reform this criminal tribe, well and good. If not, let him not add apostacy to poverty. The Government should have no connection, direct or indirect, with an undertaking which has for its object the prosyletisation of the Indian people.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1896.

63. The *Pioneer*, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 15th February, is a semi-official paper. It is one of the Government's favourites, and is allowed to break the law with impunity. Here are a few instances in point. The proceedings of the Foreign Office are shrouded in mystery and darkness. No one can let out its secrets, there being a law strictly prohibiting the publication of official secrets. This law, however, is a dead letter so far as the *Pioneer* is concerned, and there is no official secret which is not known to that paper and is not published in its columns. Distinguished Civilians, it is also well known, regularly write for the *Pioneer* in direct violation of a circular order forbidding Government servants to have any connection with newspapers and to deal with political questions. There is a separate post office located in the *Pioneer* office and the proprietors of that paper enjoy the special privilege of sending the paper by post at half an anna, no matter what its weight. The *Pioneer* office is guarded by a number of police constables specially told off for that purpose and who serve the *Pioneer* authorities as their paid servants. It is not known whether these constables are paid by the *Pioneer*; most probably they are not. But this is clear that the privilege enjoyed by the *Pioneer* is not enjoyed by any one else. The excuse that the police guard told off to the *Pioneer* office is required to keep a watch over the *Pioneer's* treasury is worthless, seeing that the house of Lala Manahar Das Seth, the richest banker in the North-Western Provinces, does not stand in need of special police protection. There are, it may not be known to the public, two secret departments called the intelligence and the Enquiry Departments in the *Pioneer* office. What these secret departments are for is not known. They are enveloped in mystery. But the Government is aware of their existence.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 15th 1896.

64. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech in reply to the addresses of the Muhammadan Literary Society and the Central National Muhammadan Association, the same paper is glad to observe that it is pervaded throughout by a sympathetic tone. It gives one great pleasure to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor loves the Bengalis, Hindu as well as Musalman, with a whole heart, and believes that there is not a more grateful people on the face of the earth than the Bengalis, who never fail to express their gratitude for kind treatment and kind words. His Honour does not consider the Hindus disloyal, and believes that they are among the most loyal subjects of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. In the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, as expressed in his speech delivered on the occasion of the opening of the Howrah water-works, Local-Self Government has done great good to the country, and a supply of pure water is better calculated to improve the sanitary condition of the country than costly and ambitious drainage works. The Lieutenant-Governor's policy, as foreshadowed in his speeches, is such as is calculated to prove greatly beneficial to the country. May the people of Bengal be always blessed with such kind and just Lieutenant-Governors.

SANJIVANI.

65. We never before, says the *Banganivasi* of the 16th February, heard the Bengalis spoken of by any ruler in such affectionate terms as they have been by Sir Alexander Mackenzie since his accession to the Bengal *Musnud*. Sir Charles

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 16th, 1896.

Elliott had a very mean opinion of the Bengalis, but Sir Alexander Mackenzie thinks otherwise of his subjects, and his words are, therefore, so dear to them. The best friends of the Musalmans could not give them better advice than what they received from His Honour the other day. According to His Honour, malaria-stricken Bengal is in greater need of pure drinking water than a good drainage system. The Bengalis may, therefore, fairly hope that under Sir Alexander Mackenzie Government will provide a pure water-supply first and take up the drainage question next; and they need not entertain the fear that an oppressive tax will be soon imposed upon them. His Honour spoke highly of the work which is being done by the mufassal municipalities. He knew, he said, that most municipalities could not effect necessary improvements for want of funds. Unlike many other officials, His Honour is not for compelling municipalities to provide pure drinking-water and construct an improved drainage system. His Honour said that the improvements which the Bengal municipalities had carried out within the last ten years were quite creditable to them, and that every needed improvement would be carried out in course of time. Sir Charles Elliott entertained very different views in this matter.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1896.

66. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th February has the following:—

The new Lieutenant-Governor.

Sir Charles Elliott is gone, but the storm he raised has not yet subsided. Peace has not yet fully established its reign. The sun has risen, driving the mist before it, but there are ominous clouds in the horizon still threatening us. The heart of the people became a reservoir, so to speak, of fear and distrust during the rule of Sir Charles Elliott. And it will take Sir Alexander Mackenzie long to throw oil on troubled waters, re-establish peace and order, and reassure the public mind. Sir Alexander Mackenzie will have to do after Sir Charles Elliott what Lord Ripon had to do after Lord Lytton. He has a heavy burden of responsibility placed on his shoulders. And it is a great consolation to us that he has already more than fulfilled our expectations. He has begun well, and he will, let us hope, acquit himself with credit. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has adopted the policy which a good and impartial ruler should follow. He has inspired the Hindus with hope, and he has advised the Musalmans to depend more on self-help than on official favour. He has plainly told them to increase their ability before aspiring to win the loaves and fishes of the State—to deserve before desiring. The Lieutenant-Governor's speech is characterised by justice and impartiality. Unlike Sir Charles Elliott, he did not make the least attempt to humour the Musalmans by abusing the Hindus and venting his spleen against them. On the contrary, he plainly told them that loyalty was not their monopoly—that they were not the only loyal subjects the Government possessed. Just and impartial words these and pre-eminently befitting a ruler. With a ruler there can be no distinction of creed or class. In his eye all are equal, and he rewards nothing but merit and ability.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a man of ripe experience. He is an old friend of the people of Bengal. They know him and he knows them. He has inspired them with hope and let us expect that he will do nothing which will change that hope into despair. In the midst of discontent and distrust they have found in him hope and trust. In the midst of storm they have found in him a safe anchor. May God help them and also help their ruler to walk in the paths of righteousness.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

67. The same paper finds fault with the military authorities for having permitted a representation in the military tournament of the engagement between the English soldiers and the Chitralis in the Malakand Pass.

The military tournament in Calcutta.

The Chitralis are Musalmans, and the killing of Chitralis as represented in the tournament naturally wounded the feelings of the Musalman spectators. The Government showed great judgment in not taking Musalman soldiers to Chitral. Why could not the military authorities show similar judgment in the tournament? The *Pioneer* says that the tournament having been a mere show, the mock fights which took place in it were not likely to be taken seriously by any one. This is stuff and nonsense. What will the *Pioneer* say of a representation on the stage or in the lists of the massacre of Europeans in Cawnpur, or of

the defeat of the English army in Afghanistan by Akbar Khan, or of the Massacre of Glencoe?

68. In the military tournament, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 19th February, the English soldiers represented their victory in the Malakand Pass, the butchering of Chitrali soldiers and the faithlessness of the Chitrali *mullas*. This, say Englishmen, is not calculated to offend the Indian Musalmans. In this respect the English can well learn a lesson from the example set by the Chinese Government who lately prohibited the representation on the stage of the Chinese victory in the Tonkin war, lest it should offend French feeling.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 19th, 1896.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 22nd February 1896.

The object of the present work is to give a complete and accurate description of the various species of the genus *Amphibia* which are found in the United States and Canada. The work is divided into two parts, the first of which contains a description of the various species, and the second of which contains a list of the localities where they were found.

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